

October 22, 2014

### **Arrive for your appointment time**

**Q:** *I've got an appointment for a visa interview next week at 8:30 a.m. What time should I plan to come to the Embassy? Do I need to come early?*

**A:** There's no need to come early! We know that your time is valuable. The time assigned in the appointment system indicates the time you should arrive at the embassy and begin processing, not the time of your actual interview. So if your appointment time is 8:30 a.m., please plan to arrive at 8:30 – there's no need for or advantage to arriving earlier. In fact, due to space constraints and security requirements, and in order to provide better customer service to all, we do not admit applicants before their scheduled time.

Upon your timely arrival at the applicant entrance of the consular section, you will be greeted by a member of our staff (called a "greeter"). The greeter will ask to see your confirmation letter, which you printed when you completed your online application, your passport, and 2 photos (2 inches by 2 inches in size, against a neutral background).

After verifying that you brought these required documents, our greeter will direct you through security screening procedures. Remember, certain objects cannot be brought into the embassy and there is no place at the embassy where you can lock away prohibited items, so make sure to leave your electronics, powders (including powdered makeup) and other prohibited items at home. You can read more about prohibited items at our website here:

[http://kingston.usembassy.gov/visa\\_services/access-and-security.html](http://kingston.usembassy.gov/visa_services/access-and-security.html).

After you have passed through security, the embassy greeters will direct you towards intake, where you will be given a number, your fingerprints will be taken (digitally – there is no ink involved) and your application and photograph will be loaded into the system. After intake, you will then proceed to your interview with a consular officer. Although there may be exceptions from time to time, you can generally expect to be at the embassy less than two hours.

Thank you for arriving at your scheduled time – maintaining an appointment schedule enables us to work efficiently and provide good customer service to all.